(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future so that passengers are not put to unnecessary and avoidable inconvenience?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On 20th June, 2001 there was an incident at Lucknow Airport at the time of departure of Indian Airlines flight IC-805 which was scheduled to leave Lucknow at 1720 hours. One passenger Shri P. Mishra, who claimed to be on the protocol staff of the Minister of Communications insisted that the flight should wait till the arrival of the Minister. The airlines staff tried to make him see reasons. But he was obstinate and continued to insist that the flight should wait. He was, therefore, off loaded with the help of the security staff. Because of this incident, the flight was delayed by about 50 minutes.

This is, however, a isolated incident Indian Airlines makes every effort to see that passengers are not put to unnecessary and avoidable inconvenience.

Concessions offered by IATA to Indian Travel Agents

3047. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that top level officials of International Air Travellers Association have met him in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the main subjects discussed in the meeting;

(c) whether International Air Travellers Association officials have promised to extend a lot of concessions to Indian travel agents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent the concession offered by International Air Travellers Association officials would benefit the Indian tourism and aviation industry?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Representatives of International Air Transport

Association (IATA) have recently interacted with this Ministry to discuss various matters pertaining to civil aviation. IATA has taken up a feasibility study with a view to setting up an IATA learning centre in India. They are also analysing the immediate and future needs of the Indian market for formulating a proposal in this regard.

International Flights from Kochi Airport

3048. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to start new international flights from Kochi Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of applications from the foreign Airlines pending in this regard; and

(d) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Air India and Indian Airlines together are presently operating 30 services per week out of Cochin. Out of the eleven (11) airlines namely Oman Air, Kuwait Airways. Gulf Air, Sri Lankan Airlines, Qatar Airways. Emirates, Saudia, Singapore Airlines, Yemen Airways, Aeroflot and Uzbekistan Airways, who have expressed interest to operate services to/from Cochin, Oman Air has been granted Cochin as a new point of call during recently concluded bilateral air services consultation on 13.8.2001. The Government of India has also agreed to grant Cochin as a point of call in lieu of Chennai to Saudia as requested by them. A commitment has also been given to grant Cochin as a point of call to Emirates by September 2002. Cochin as also been offered as a point of call to the designated airlines of Kuwait and Yemen subject to a commercial agreement with the designated airline of India.

Air Bus Service on Bhubaneswar Delhi Route

3049. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether Government would consider to send Air Bus every day to Bhubaneswar-Delhi instead of